**Amendments to the Claims**:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims**:

Claims 1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (New) A device for actuating a torque transmission device, including a frictional engagement unit in an at least partially automated transmission of a motor vehicle, comprising an actuator and a unit configured to control the power flow via the torque transmission device, wherein the unit is operative to activate the actuator during a closing sequence of the torque transmission device causing the latter to pass from an open position at least to an engagement point in a first mode characterized by at least one of increased speed and increased pressure, and the unit is operative to switch the actuator into a subsequent mode at a time varying as a function of at least one characteristic variable sensed during the closing sequence, wherein the sensed characteristic variable being at least substantially defined by a variable varying as a function of a speed differential within the torque transmission device whereby the unit switches the actuator into the subsequent mode when the characteristic variable, at least substantially defined by the value of the speed differential, is less than a predefined proportion of a maximum sensed value, which the characteristic variable has assumed in the period that has elapsed since a beginning of the closing sequence.

10 (New) The device as claimed in claim 9, wherein the unit is operative, via the torque transmission device, to shift the automated transmission into a neutral position and into a drive position.

11. (New) The device as claimed in claim 9, wherein the actuator is hydraulic.

12. (New) The device as claimed in claim 11, wherein the unit is operative, via the torque transmission device, to shift the automated transmission into a neutral position and into a drive position.

13. (New) The device as claimed in claim 9, wherein the characteristic variable is at least substantially proportional to the value of the speed differential, the proportion being between 70% and 95%.

14. (New) The device as claimed in claim 9, wherein the subsequent mode is a holding mode when the sensed value of the characteristic variable is less than a predetermined threshold value.

15. (New) The device as claimed in claim 9, wherein the torque transmission unit (10) is a plate clutch.

16. (New) The device as claimed in claim 9, wherein the unit is operatively configured to control the actuator (12) in the first mode and to regulates the actuator in the subsequent mode.

17. (New) A method employing a device according to claim 9, comprising

activating the actuator during a closing sequence of the torque transmission device such that the latter is caused to pass from an open position at least to an engagement point in a first mode characterized by at least one of increased speed and increased pressure, and

switching the actuator into a subsequent mode at a time varying as a function of at least one characteristic variable sensed during the closing sequence, wherein the sensed characteristic variable being at least substantially defined by a variable varying as a function of a speed differential within the torque transmission device whereby the unit switches the actuator into the subsequent mode when the characteristic variable, at least substantially defined by the value of the speed differential, is less than a predefined proportion of a maximum sensed value, which the characteristic variable has assumed in the period that has elapsed since a beginning of the closing sequence.

## REMARKS

Entry of the amendments to the specification, claims and abstract before examination of the application is respectfully requested. These claims patentably define over the art of record.